

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. ~~An apparatus for electroplating for forming a metal film by an electroplating method, said apparatus comprising a plating bath provided in a non-oxidative atmosphere.~~

2. An apparatus for electroplating as claimed in claim 1, wherein

Sub B1 said non-oxidative atmosphere, in which said plating bath is provided, is provided in a plating chamber, and

said apparatus further comprises a pre-treating chamber, in which a pre-treatment of an article to be plated is conducted, and

a transportation chamber connected to said pre-treating chamber and said plating chamber.

3. ~~An apparatus for electroplating as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~

Sub B2 said non-oxidative atmosphere is selected from a rare gas atmosphere, a nitrogen gas atmosphere and a hydrogen gas atmosphere.

4. An apparatus for electroplating as claimed in claim 2, wherein

Sub B2 said non-oxidative atmosphere is selected from a rare gas atmosphere, a nitrogen gas atmosphere and a hydrogen gas atmosphere.

5. A method for electroplating for forming a metal film by an electroplating method, an article to be plated being immersed in a plating bath through a non-oxidative atmosphere.

6. A method for electroplating as claimed in claim 5, wherein

said non-oxidative atmosphere is selected from a rare gas atmosphere, a nitrogen gas atmosphere and a hydrogen gas atmosphere.

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A13

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B4

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